Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 045143 ORIGIN SS-25

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TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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EXDIS

E.O. 1165,: XGDS-1

TAGS:PBOR, SO, FT, UNSC, OAU

SUBJECT:HORN OF AFRICA: NIGERIA AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: A) LAGOS 2181; B) STATE 44130

- 1. IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY FEBRUARY 21, DOBRYNIN WAS NEGATIVE ON SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN, STRESSING INSTEAD SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT UNDER OAU AUSPICES. SOVIET PERMREP TROYANOVSKIY IN NEW YORK HAS SIMILARLY DISCOURAGED SC ACTION IN HIS RECENT COMMENTS TO US AND OTHER DELEGATIONS. AS IN DOBRYNIN'S PAST COMMENTS TO SECRETARY, HOWEVER, SOVIET OPPOSITION HAS BEEN PHRASED LARGELY IN TERMS OF DOUBTING ADVISABILITY OF USEFULNESS OF SC ACTION, GIVEN SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN FAILURE TO ASK FOR A MEETING AND POTENTIAL FOR PROGRESS IN OAU INITIATIVE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS WOULD ACTIVELY OPPOSE A COUNCIL MEETING IF THEY SAW THAT AFRICAN STATES ARE PREPARED TO SEE IT TAKE PLACE AND BELIEVED IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS OF OAU MEDIATION EFFORTS.
- 2. FOR TRIPOLI: YOU SHOULD BRIEF GARBA ALONG THE ABOVE LINES, MAKING CLEAR THAT SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARDS A

COUNCIL MEETING IS BY NO MEANS POSITIVE, BASED ON THEIR APPRECIATION OF AFRICAN DESIRES. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD NOT ATTACK AN EVEN-HANDED RESOLUTION WHICH HAD THE BACKING OF INFLUENTIAL SECRET

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AFRICANS SUCH AS NIGERIA. NEITHER ETHIOPIA NOR SOMALIA WANT COUNCIL ACTION AT PRESENT, BUT THIS IS IN ITSELF TESTIMONY TO THE EVEN-HANDEDNESS OF THE APPROACH UNDER CONSIDERATION. IF A RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH GARBA IS INTRODUCED, BOTH WOULD FIND REASON TO CRITICIZE IT. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD WANT TO ACCEPT THE BLAME FOR TORPEDOING A RESOLUTION WHICH THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES SAW AS A CONSTRUCTIVE SUPPORT TO THEIR MEDIATION EFFORTS.

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Subject: HORN OF AFRICA: NIGERIA AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL

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